

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed August 26, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 remain in this application, where claims 1 and 9 are independent.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been amended to better conform to U.S. practice. Further, the specification has been amended for better clarity and conformance to U.S. practice.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-9 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as for better form including beginning the independent claims with "A" the dependent claims with 'The', and deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Such amendments to claims 1-9 were not made in order to

address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without agreeing with the position forwarded in the Office Action, and in the interest of furthering the prosecution and expediting allowance of the present Application, claim 9 has been amended for better form that more clearly recites statutory subject matter. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §101 has been overcome and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.


In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-8 are allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 1-8 are allowed. By means of the present amendment, claim 9 has been amended to include the features of allowed claim 8. Further, as noted above, the rejection to claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §101 has been overcome. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claim 9 be allowed.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or

averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded. And in particular, no Official Notices are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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